

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and
2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business
(No Votes Are Expected before 6 p.m.)*

Anticipated Floor Action:

**H.Con.Res. 280 Authorizing the D. C. Special Olympics Law Enforcement
Torch Run through the Capitol Grounds**

**H.Con.Res 277 Authorizing the Use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater
Washington Soap Box Derby**

**H.Res. 448 Expressing the Sense of the House in Continued Sympathy for
the victims of the Oklahoma City Bombing**

H.R. 4067 Business Checking Modernization Act

**H.Con.Res. 282 Declaring the American G.I. the "Person of the Century"
for the 20th Century**

**H.Con.Res. 228 Honoring the Members of the Armed Forces and Federal
Civilian Employees who Served the Nation During the Vietnam Era**

S. 777 Freedom to E-File Act

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Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider the following seven bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.Con.Res. 280 authorizes the use of Capitol Grounds for the 2000 Special Olympics Torch Relay ceremonies on June 2, 2000. The ceremony will be part of the torch relay to the District of Columbia Special Olympics Summer Games being held at Gallaudet University. The activities will begin with opening

ceremonies for the event on Capitol Hill, followed by over 2,000 Capitol Police law enforcement representatives carrying the torch to recognize the Special Olympics participants. The resolution authorizes the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board to ensure that the event is carried out in compliance with regulations governing the use of the Capitol Grounds. The event will be open to the public and free of charge. H.Con.Res. 280 was introduced by Mr. Franks on March 14, 2000.

H.Con.Res. 277 authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds on June 25, 2000 for the 59th annual Greater Washington Soap Box Derby; this is the 9th year it has been held at the Capitol. The resolution also authorizes the Capitol Police Board, the Architect of the Capitol, and the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association to negotiate the details of the use of Capitol Grounds. The event will be free of charge and open to the public. The Association is responsible for the expenses and liabilities pertaining to this event. H.Con.Res. 277 was introduced by Mr. Hoyer *et al.* on March 13, 2000.

H. Res. 448 expresses the sense of the House in continued sympathy for the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing on its 5th anniversary. Specifically, the measure (1) recognizes the acts of goodwill by the thousands of volunteers, rescue workers, and Federal, State, and local officials who assisted in the rescue and recovery efforts following the Oklahoma City bombing; (2) sends continued condolences to the friends, families, and loved ones who still suffer from the consequences of the bombing; (3) pledges to make Federal buildings safer while maintaining the level of access for the citizens served by the building; (4) pledges to create awareness of the dangers of flying glass and debris resulting from an act of terrorism, an explosion, or a natural disaster; and (5) pledges to support and promote the use of available technology to protect people from flying glass and debris. The measure was introduced by Mr. Franks on March 23, 2000.

H.R. 4067 repeals the prohibition of interest payments on business checking accounts. The bill provides a three-year transition period before taking effect. In the interim, banks would be allowed to make up to 24 transfer transactions a month to another account, an increase from the current number of six. This increase allows banks to more easily transfer assets between interest bearing accounts and non-interest bearing checking accounts. The bill was introduced by Mr. Metcalf on March 23, 2000.

H.Con.Res. 282 declares the American G.I. as the “Person of the Century” for the 20th century. The 20th century has been marked by continuous conflict and war as the struggle for freedom and democracy has been challenged throughout the world. From World War I to the recent NATO efforts in Kosovo, American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines have fought and died in pursuit of what humans value most, liberty. The American G.I. has consistently fought for the values that have led the world away from dictatorships and tyranny toward a course of progress and hope for the future. Historians, organizations and publications have sought to identify those traits that personify such honor and achievement throughout this century. This resolution does so by designating the American G.I. as ‘Person of the Century.’ The accomplishments of the American G.I. have not only made this a better country, but also a better world. The measure was introduced by Mr. Hayes on March 14, 2000.

H.Con.Res. 228 honors and recognizes (1) the service and sacrifice of the members of the Armed Forces and Federal civilian employees who during the Vietnam era served in support of United States throughout the world; (2) the sacrifice of the families of individuals who lost their lives or remain unaccounted for or were injured during that era; (3) the defense of United States national security interests; and (4) encourages the American people, through appropriate ceremonies and activities, to recognize the service and sacrifice of those individuals. The measure was introduced by Mr. Thompson on November 15, 1999.

S. 777 requires the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop and implement an Internet-based filling and retrieval system allowing farmers and other people to complete program applications over the Internet. The bill applies to the following USDA agencies: the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Risk Management Agency, and the services of the Rural Development Mission that are located in field offices.

The bill gives the USDA 180 days to develop a common method for making program applications and information electronically available, and to allow producers and other people to be able to electronically retrieve program applications over the Internet. Within two years the department must fully implement a system that enables farmers and other people to submit program applications electronically over the Internet. The USDA must file a report after 180 days to update Congress on the program's progress. The Secretary is authorized to allocate \$3 million in fiscal year 2001 and \$2 million in subsequent fiscal years in order to carry out the provisions. The bill was introduced by Mr. Fitzgerald *et al.* and reported by voice vote on April 4, 2000.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXIX, #10, April 7, 2000.

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